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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 12 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, I have the honour to notify you of a series of such attacks that took place during February 1996.

1 February 1996

The town of Rshaf, which is in the area between the border strip and the liberated areas, was subjected to harassment by Israeli forces and Lahad forces bringing pressure to bear on its inhabitants, as set forth hereunder.

2 February 1996

A group from the Lahad militia told the inhabitants of Rshaf that they must proceed every day at 1700 hours to the houses adjacent to the Lahad headquarters and sleep there until the following morning, and it imposed a curfew on the town during the same period.

The inhabitants were prevented from entering or leaving the town.

Lists of the names of residents of Rshaf and frequent visitors to the town were drawn up by the Lahad militia and presented to the Israeli forces.

* A/51/50.

A Lahad force proceeded to encircle the town and to arrest a number of residents. They were taken to the Baranit crossing at Rumaysh and were there questioned by an Israeli officer who asked them, in the interests of their own safety, to help the Lahad militia and to inform it of all movements by resistance elements in Rshaf.

3 February 1996

The vicinity of Majdal Zun and Mansuri, in the Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

4 February 1996

The Israeli gunboats on station off the Mansuri coast in the Tyre district seized a fishing boat called Al-Ghadir (No. 1006), with the following Lebanese on board: Usamah Tawfiq al-Samra, Wisam Tawfiq al-Samra and Zayn Ahmad Istanbuli.

5 February 1996

The vicinity of Junayh, Izziyah al-Qalilah and Mansuri, in the Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery bombardment in which Amirah Muhammad Musa Khashshab (35) was killed and Mervat Ali Isma'il (27) was injured.

6 February 1996

At 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

At 1715 hours the hills to the south of Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2030 hours the vicinity of Bra'shit, Tibnin, Haddatha and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

7 February 1996

At 0630 hours the vicinity of Kafr Tibnin and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the area around the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0700 hours Israeli forces and Lahad forces shelled the vicinity of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah.

At 1200 hours Israeli forces fired flares in the direction of the fishing boats off the Mahallat al-Ma'liyah beach at Tyre.

At 2230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun.

12 February 1996

Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

14 February 1996

The vicinity of Jba' and Kafr Fila came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

The vicinity of Habbush and Kafr Rumman and the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

15 February 1996

At 1045 hours and again between 1240 and 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitudes.

16 February 1996

At 0515 hours the vicinity of Majdal Zun came under artillery bombardment and bursts of fire from Israeli forces.

At 0600 hours Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha, Shaqra, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha, Frun and Ghanduriyah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0700 hours the hills of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0730 hours the vicinity of Kafr Tibnin, Jarju', Jba', Arabsalim, Ayn Bu Siwar, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the area around the Army barracks there, the Habbush bridge and the Ayn Bu Siwar-Jarju' highway came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2100 hours a number of artillery shells fired from positions occupied by Israeli forces and Lahad forces fell in the vicinity of Jun and Muhtadarah in the Shuf district.

At 2200 hours the hills of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the southern area.

17 February 1996

The vicinity of Kafr Rumman and Habbush, in the Nabatiyah district, came under artillery bombardment and bursts of fire from the Israeli positions in the border strip.

18 February 1996

The vicinity of Tulin, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Tamiriyah, Ghanduriyah and Frun came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

19 February 1996

The vicinity of Jba' and Mazra'at al-Hamra' came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

The vicinity of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

20 February 1996

Jabal Abu Rashid and the vicinity of Ayn al-Tinah came under artillery bombardment from Lahad forces and Israeli forces.

At 2115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

21 February 1996

At 0600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

At 2030 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Tallat Mlita.

22 February 1996

At 0600 hours the Lahad forces closed the Batir-Jazzin crossing in the Beirut direction to both vehicles and pedestrians, and at 0700 hours they closed the Kafr Hunah-Marj Uyun crossing in both directions. They reopened the two crossings at 1700 hours.

At 0630 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi. They then carried out mock attacks.

At 2120 hours Israeli warplanes bombarded the vicinity of Ayn Bu Siwar and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi.

At 2230 hours the vicinity of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the Lebanese Army barracks there came under Israeli artillery bombardment in which a member of the internal security forces was wounded.

23 February 1996

The vicinity of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

24 February 1996

At 0630 hours the vicinity of Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnin, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, the area around the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

25 February 1996

The vicinity of Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

26 February 1996

The vicinity of Arnun, Yuhmur, Kafr Tibnin and Mazra'at al-Hamra and areas along the Litani river came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

27 February 1996

The vicinity of Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

29 February 1996

Kafra, Haris, Yatar and the vicinity came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns these repeated Israeli attacks, which have caused loss of life, numerous injuries and serious damage to property. It further condemns in the strongest terms the arbitrary practices directed against civilians.

Like previous attacks, this new series constitutes blatant aggression against the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and represents another flagrant violation of international law and basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Permanent Representative